

REMARKS

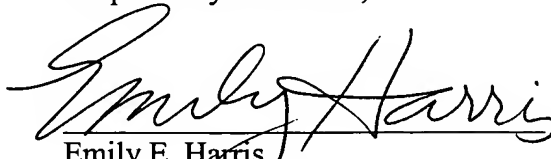
Claims 25-36 are rejected either under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Long (U.S. Pat. No. 4,805,366) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long in view of Keith (U.S. Pat. No. 5,996,297). These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

The Long reference does not have the flanges and web as oriented (and claimed) in applicant's invention. Applicant has flanges 26 that are laterally spaced apart and are interconnected by a thinner web 28. The parts of Long that the Examiner has identified as the Long flanges or longitudinally extending portions are not laterally spaced, wherein the lateral space is filled by a thinner web. The amendments to the claims clarify this difference. Applicant's specification has also been amended to further explain this difference.

As the Long reference does not have all of the claimed elements, the 102(b) rejections must fail. Further, the combination of Long with Keith also does not demonstrate every claimed element. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 and 103 rejections of the claims in view of these remarks and the added claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



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